

COUNTRY	East Germany	25X1A
TOPIC	Military Information from Zeitz	
EVALUATION	25X1X	PLACE OBTAINED 25X1A
DATE OF CONTENT	21 to 23 December 1952	
DATE OBTAINED		25X1C
DATE PREPARED	18 February 1953	
REFERENCES		
PAGES	2	ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 25X1A
REMARKS		

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SOURCE

1. Prior to 23 December 1952, the Infanterie Kaserne east of Friedens Strasse, Zeitz, was occupied by about 2,000 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, mostly with artillery insignia, and including some with AT or motor transport insignia. At 10 a.m. on 21 December, a general spoke to about 1,300 soldiers, including women, who were lined up in the barracks yard. Between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. on 25 and 26 December, about 1,200 troops, including some wearing artillery insignia, practiced firing with live ammunition in the Elsterwiesen (meadows) near the weir at Gross Osida. About 400 soldiers were seen making a simulated attack against a hill about 300 meters from the trench positions, from where they started. Targets which were fired at with mortars, probably of 85-mm caliber, machine guns, submachine guns and carbines were on the hill. The practice was repeated several times. On 23 December, three battalions of about 200 soldiers each, which source believed were recruits, were seen drilling in the barracks yard. About 1,000 troops from both barracks installations were seen at combat practice in the Elsterwiesen. Trucks [redacted] were seen en route to the installation.

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2. Prior to 23 December, the Artillerie Kaserne west of Friedens Strasse was occupied by about 1,600 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia and, a few, with motor transport and artillery insignia. At 10 a.m. on 21 December, a high-ranking officer addressed about 1,400 troops who were assembled. In the morning on 25 December, T-34 tanks [redacted] and armored scout cars [redacted] were seen in the street near the installation. These vehicles were being cleaned in the afternoon. At about 3 a.m. on 23 December, T-34/85 tanks [redacted] left for the training area in the woods. At about 4 p.m., about 500 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with tank insignia, were seen marching to Bergisdorf via Forst. The soldiers were wearing their gas masks, were armed with carbines and submachine guns and were equipped with lanterns. Trucks [redacted] were seen en route to the installation.

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CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~

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